

group of 30 participants learned about water use, livestock grazing, mining operations, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, cultural resources and restoration in the Basin.

- In an effort to better understand the numerous projects being undertaken, a 65-page report on "Lower Rio Grande Issue Team Activities for FY97" was completed in September 1996.
- On November 16, 1996, during an Arizona-Mexico Commission plenary meeting, the Governors of Arizona and Sonora signed a joint declaration titled "Managing Natural and Cultural Resources and Promoting Sustainable Development in the Sonoran Desert Borderlands of Arizona and Sonora, A Proposal for Cooperative Resource Management Recognizing the Sovereignty of Adjoining Nations." FCC members helped visualize and develop this declaration.



Dave Krueper, BLM Wildlife Biologist, informing binational participants about resources in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. Photo by B. McClure

- Color infrared aerial photography at 1:40,000-scale was completed in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California within 100 miles of the United States-Mexico border.
- With encouragement and support by the FCC, Mexico completed color infrared photography at 1:40,000-scale for portions of its high priority areas and black and white aerial photography at 1:75,000-scale for other areas.
- The FCC helped produce a bilingual audio visual program about the Rio Grande ecosystem called "Un Rio...Muchas Voces (One River...Many Voices)" for use in public education systems within the United States-Mexico border region.
- In 1996 and subsequent years, the FCC has represented the Department on the Good Neighbor Environmental Board established under NAFTA.
- A community-based riparian habitat restoration project along the Santa Cruz River in Sonora, Mexico, lead by the Sonoran Institute and supported by member bureaus of the FCC and others was initiated in 1996.
- The FCC compiled a bibliography that summarizes all federal and non-federal natural resource programs and literature for the Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo del Norte watershed. The listing will enable resource managers to identify areas of common interest, leverage and maximize resources, and avoid duplication.
- The FCC represented the Department in the development of Border XXI. In conjunction with representatives of the Department of Agriculture and SEMARNAP, the FCC developed the Natural Resources sections, and portions of the Water and Environmental Information Resources sections, of the Border XXI Program documents. It also participates in work groups for water, enforcement, air, emergency response, and environmental information resources.
- FCC members provided coordination, leadership, technical assistance and funding to support a workshop to train Mexican biologists in the basics of bird monitoring. The workshop was held at Las Campanas Ranch, Chihuahua, Mexico, January 13-17, 1997.
- A draft International Wildfire Protection Agreement was developed and submitted to SEMARNAP for consideration in December 1996. Negotiations are still pending.
- The FCC was instrumental in obtaining an annual appropriation of \$500,000, beginning in FY 1996, to help establish and maintain a Tohono O'odham Resource Protection program, which provides protection for the Nation's cultural, historic and desert resources and helps them enforce tribal trespass ordinances.